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United States Senate

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COMMITTEES:
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August 31, 2006

Honorable Brian Schweitzer
Governor
State of Montana
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

VIA FAX: 444-5529

8/31/2006

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

You are well aware of the dire situation being created by the Derby fire. Losses have been catastrophic and the fire continues to grow at a startling pace. Entire ranches have been consumed and homes have been lost.

The fire has grown to 80,000 acres and continues to increase. The weather is being uncooperative and conditions don't look like they will improve. Based on these conditions, I am requesting that you declare a State of Emergency. Such a declaration will make more resources available to assist with this fire.

By declaring a State of Emergency, Montana National Guard troops would be able to assist with the protection of personal property and rangeland threatened by the horrible Derby fire. If they are activated, I believe the MNG's assistance will be valuable in the effort to contain this fire and prevent further losses.

Sincerely,



Conrad Burns
United States Senator

CRB:llw

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